	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/681,268	NGAI, HENRY P.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dmitry Levitan	2662	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the amendment, filed 10/11/04*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *2-20, renumbered as 1-19*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *12 March 2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

Amendment, filed on 10/11/04 has been entered. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Stuart Auvinen on 12/20/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 2 has been amended as shown in Attachment A.

The claim has been was amended to clarify the language by removing repetitive limitations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Dmitry Levitan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3093. The

examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on (571) 272-3088. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dmitry Levitan
Patent Examiner.
12/20/04.

HASSAN KIZOU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Attachment A.

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended)   A bus-based network switch comprising:

10   a plurality of switch nodes, each switch node for receiving a data payload from an input

port or for transmitting a data payload to an external network device through an

output port;

a first bus for sending switch packets with the data payload in a first direction among

the plurality of switch nodes, the first bus being divided into links, each link for

15   transferring a switch packet between two of the switch nodes;

a second bus for sending switch packets with the data payload in a second direction

among the plurality of switch nodes, the second bus being divided into links,

each link for transferring the switch packet between two of the switch nodes;

wherein the plurality of switch nodes are arranged in a continuous loop wherein a

20   destination switch node in the plurality of switch nodes can be reached from any

other switch node in the plurality of switch nodes both by following the

continuous loop in the first direction and by following the continuous loop in the

second direction; and

a packet limiter that limits a number of switch nodes that the switch packet travels

25   through from a source switch node that receives the data payload to the

destination switch node that transmits the data payload from the switch packet to

the output port;

~~The bus-based network switch of claim 1~~ wherein the packet limiter limits the number

of switch nodes to half or less of the total number of switch nodes in the

30   plurality of switch nodes,

whereby the switch packet travels through a limited number of the switch nodes and

whereby the switch packet travels no more than half-way around the continuous loop of

switch nodes.